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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY
Washington 25, D. C.

January 16, 1948

BUREAU MEMORANDUM NO. 402

Safety Glasses for Laboratory Workers

TO DIRECTORS OF REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES, BUREAU DIVISION HEADS, AND
THOSE IN CHARGE OF FIELD STATIONS:

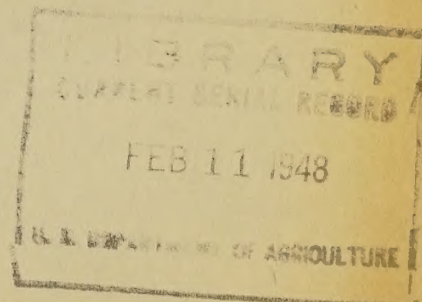
The Bureau recently received an opinion from the Solicitor's Office, dated August 8, 1947, through the Office of Budget and Finance, which indicates that the Bureau may purchase safety glasses under the provisions of Section 13 of Public Law 600, 79th Congress. The decision indicates that the Bureau may purchase:

1. Glasses containing lenses of ordinary glass of ordinary strength.
2. Glasses of out-of-the-ordinary strength glass.
3. Glasses of out-of-the-ordinary strength, ground to fit the corrected vision of the individual worker.

All three types are to be specially fitted to the face contour and size and shape of the head of each individual worker, provided such glasses are determined to be necessary for the protection of the personnel of the laboratories in the performance of their assigned tasks.

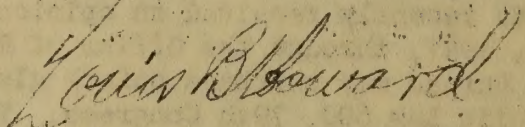
I have had this matter reviewed by the Directors of each of the Laboratories, together with the Safety Committees of the Bureau in each of the Laboratories, to determine what policy the Bureau should follow in supplying our staff members with safety glasses for operations in the Laboratories. It has been decided that safety glasses to fit the individual workers shall be provided in hazardous operations covering the following general classifications:

- a. Pressure and vacuum operations.
- b. High-temperature operations.
- c. Operations involving corrosive liquids.
- d. Operations involving highly-inflammable liquids.
- e. Extremely low temperature operations (dry ice).
- f. Operations in the mechanical shops.
- g. Any other operations which the Safety Committee feels are of a hazardous character to justify their use.



For certain specific operations such as those involving ozonization, oxidation with per-acids and similar reactions involving still greater risk of explosion, or for operations where the risk is not known, the wearing of cover-all goggles should also be required. These goggles may be slipped on over the fitted safety glasses.

With the receipt of this memorandum, you are authorized to make purchases of safety glasses as prescribed in this memorandum. From time to time, it may be that you will encounter other types of operations where protection in the form of safety glasses should be afforded to employees for their protection in the performance of assigned tasks. I should greatly appreciate your advising me concerning the particular operations, with your reaction as to whether the existing policy of the Bureau should be broadened to include the particular operation on a Bureau-wide basis.


Louis B. Howard
Chief of Bureau